

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

## Remembering Neighbor Greg Freeman

By Lana Stein

I learned of Greg Freeman's death around noon on Dec. 31. After the first shock, I began to think of him in terms of our neighborhood and our city. He was a great champion of both. Greg actually spent most of his adult life in Skinker DeBaliviere. He loved the almost century old dwellings and he also loved the diversity of the area. About 8 years ago, he became a board member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. He gave support to programs to strengthn the neighborhood and spoke at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. He then joined the committee responsible for setting up the commemorations, working closely with the late Jack Wright. Several of us used to dine together before council meetings, gossiping about people and events in Skinker DeBaliviere and beyond. We often talked about Washington Heights, the seemingly forgotten half of the neighborhood where we both lived. If he could have, Greg would have never left Skinker DeBaliviere. However,

he became afflicted with limb girdle muscular dystrophy, which meant that a domicile with an elevator would be a must. When he moved early last summer, he did not go far, choosing a condominium due east in the central west end.

Greg also had great enthusiasm for the city. He championed its renewal every chance he could. He joined with KMOX's Charlie Brennan to argue for vendors and entertainers downtown. He cared about historical buildings. He cared about the type of governance that could help the city redevelop. And he also championed organizations that helped the less able, the less fortunate in the greater St. Louis area. His writing, in these veins, brought a focus to many good causes. But, perhaps most of all, in his Post-Dispatch columns and in his good works in the neighborhood and beyond, he had a humanism to which everyone could relate. Whether he wrote about his son Will or their cat, Cornelius, acting out, he opened the doors of understanding across the barrier



**Elizabeth and Greg Freeman, with their son Will, lived on DeGiverville until very recently. The MLK Day Program this year was Dr. King's vision, "as lived by Greg Freeman".**

of color for many. His memorial service at Washington University's Graham Chapel was his kind of gathering. It was diverse in race, age, and every other way. The speakers that day helped us to remember Greg with laughter—a very warm person, albeit with foibles, but clearly a man who will

be missed by many. And, he and his wife, Elizabeth, were great partners at trivial pursuit, helping the Times, in one of our many fundraising adventures. This is a hard loss for us all but at least we had him for as long as we did.



Photo by Andy Cross.

**The house formerly known as 601 Westgate was moved to a spare lot on Pershing by Expert House Movers, Inc.**

## House Moves!!!

By Tim Schoemehl

Over one hundred onlookers braved frigid temperatures on Saturday January 11 to watch as the house at 201 Westgate was moved to a new location in the 6300 block of Pershing. Crews had been working at the site for several weeks, demolishing the foundation of the 2-story, 2300 square foot home, and erecting a hydraulic-powered system of wheels beneath the house. On the morning of the move, dozens of onlookers were on hand by 7:00 AM, as work crews made final preparations.

About 8:30 AM, preparations were complete, and the house lurched slowly from its site, and into the Forest Park Parkway. As the house sat in the middle of the Parkway, crews began the time consuming task of raising each section of the house and turning the wheels underneath so the house could be moved 700 feet east to its new location. Forest Park Parkway remained closed for most of the day.

The move was necessitated by the impending Cross-County

MetroLink Expansion, which would have brought the light rail line within a few feet of the house at its original location. Washington University paid for the move. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the University purchased the lot for the new lot for the home for \$150,000, and the move itself cost \$88,500. Including the cost of tuckpointing and a new foundation, the Post reported that the total cost of the relocation was expected to exceed \$350,000.

Throughout the day, spectators observed the activities, many sipping hot chocolate or coffee and bundled up against the cold weather. With dozens of area residents in attendance, the atmosphere was similar to a neighborhood festival. "It was really a lot of fun," said Sam Green of 61XX Westminster. "It was such an amazing site, something few people would ever have a chance to see, and it was great to witness it with our kids and grandkids and friends and neighbors."

## Well-Known Neighbor Seeks School Board Seat

An over 30 year resident of Skinker DeBaliviere and St. Louis's most recent 3-term mayor, is running for the school board. Vince Schoemehl is seeking a 3 year term and is on the mayor's slate. He feels there are opportunities to change the direction of elementary and secondary education in St. Louis to ensure that another generation is not left behind. The desegregation program is ending and the public schools will receive a settlement. He and other slate members are well-known in

the community and will be able increase interest in and attention to the schools. In addition, they will encourage close interaction with other state and city agencies to see that students have the services they need. Most important of all for Schoemehl is to have a good teacher in every classroom and all the tools needed for instruction there from day one of the school year. The other slate members include Robert Archibald, Ron Jackson, and Darnetta Clinksdale.

**Forum: Thursday, March 6, 2003,  
New City School, 5209 Waterman, 7 p.m.**

Co-sponsored by Skinker-Debaliviere Community Council and other neighborhood organizations. All candidates for School Board invited to speak.

# Editor's Notebook

By Lana Stein

It was interesting to learn that a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee study found St. Louis City to be the 5th most integrated city in the U.S. Certainly, Skinker DeBaliviere has been the premiere city neighborhood in this regard.

Given the recent increasing property values and seemingly no shortage of potential buyers, we have come a long way. It would be nice if greater swaths of our and other metropolitan areas could be as diverse. Maybe it's a matter of time — but maybe not.

We need not be too complacent, however. We have to be vigilant regarding public safety. And we should look for more projects that bring neighbors together such as the community gardens or the playground. Maybe Lucier Park? And, we need to think about the schools. The St. Louis Public Schools by and large have become the repository of the poor and those of color. The schools need a strong community coalition dedicated to bettering instruction and preparing students for a fruitful life. How many of us have children at Hamilton School? If it appeared more viable, it would only add to interest in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, it coasts along as a community center but continues to charge area youth to shoot hoops there. It should be a real community institution and gathering place. Maybe someday.

## Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Spirit Station

Des Peres and Delmar intersection

9:15-11:30 a.m.,

Sunday, April 6, 2003

For more information, contact Jennifer Olmstead at  
jsolmstead@hotmail.com.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein and JoAnn Vatcha  
Business Manager: Lois Schoemehl

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*The Times* welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. All material — articles, letters, notices, classified ads — must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format or on **high density** Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. The signature on correspondence to the editor maybe omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5953 Pershing Ave., 63112.

Deadline for April/May issue: March 15, 2003. Please send copy by e-mail to [jvatcha@msn.com](mailto:jvatcha@msn.com) or submit typed copy or by disc to 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates,

# Calendar

## Upcoming Events Calendar

**February 5th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m.

**February 10th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m. ALL Neighbors are welcome.

**February 14th** — Commercial District Committee meeting, noon, 6008 Kingsbury. Light lunch will be served.

**February 19th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Board Meeting, 5008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m.

**February 19th** — Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Organizing Meeting. All are invited. Hamilton School, 6:30 p.m.

**February 26th** — SDCC Executive Committee, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 a.m.

**February 26th** — Auto Security Seminar – Car smarts for all – Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman Boulevard – a collaboration of SDCC, Seventh District Police and Washington University Police. Open to the public. Light refreshments, 7:00 p.m.

**March 1st** — Operation Brightside Organizational Meeting – Block Captains, team leaders, volunteers are invited to help plan this year's program – 6008 Kingsbury, 10:00 a.m.

**March 5th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m.

**March 10th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, All Neighbors Welcome, 7:00 p.m.

**March 19th** — Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:00 p.m.

## Other Events of Interest

### At the History Museum —

**February 7-23** — Historyonics Theatre Company presents "Controlled Cool: The Arthur Ashe Story" Call 361-5858 for reservations.

**February 23** — The St. Louis African Chorus, 2:30pm, free.

The Hager-Halloway Public Forum presents "Race, Class and the Education of Every Child: Organizing Civic Capacity for Action" on **March 7-8, 2003**. The Rev. Mark Harvey of Grace United Methodist Church is a coordinator of this event. Professor Marion Orr of Brown University will speak on "Education Equity from the Outside In: Moving Beyond Race and Class to Build Civic Capacity" on **Friday, March 9**. On Saturday there will be workshops with a number of local participants. Twenty-four organizations are sponsoring this two day event. There is a \$25 fee but scholarships are available. For further information, contact Alison Cien Fuegos at 863-1992.

**At the Saint Louis Art Museum until April 20** — "Jeweled Arts of India in the Age of the Mughals." Holdings from the Kuwait National Museum, over 300 jeweled items of personal adornment, as well as weapons, bowls set with precious stones and two dozen rubies and emeralds.

**At the Saint Louis Art Museum until April 13** — "Dox Thrash: An African American Master Printmaker Rediscovered"

### Performances at the Edison Theatre at Washington University:

**February 14-15** — Stephen Schwartz & Friends

**February 21-23** — RambleShoe

**March 1** — Antigala with Sandra Bernhard

**March 15** — Ahn Trio

**April 25-27** — Ballet Hispanico

## Kohn's Exhibitions Capture His Spark

In the late fall, neighborhood artist Bill Kohn exhibited his recent work depicting the Italian city of Florence and also had a retrospective at Washington University galleries. Kohn recently won a statewide award for his contribution to Missouri arts and both exhibits showed us why. Kohn uniquely uses form and color to depict in unique and special ways very familiar objects. He has looked at the bridges of Paris, the Grand Canyon, Inca ruins in Peru, and now Florence, a city known for its special light and its treasury of great artworks. Those who have visited Florence will recall that its Duomo, or cathedral, dominates the city and

directions are often based on proximity to this centuries-old edifice. The Duomo in Florence is not a cathedral constructed of stone leaping toward the heavens.

Rather, its surface is pale and fragile and it is rounder in shape. Kohn's paintings play off color reflected from the Duomo to the homes and shops surrounding it. Its uniqueness and majesty shine.

The retrospective captured the use of shape and color in a variety of locales. The exhibit included an early work of Kohn's that Skinker DeBaliviere resident Andy Cross rescued.

# Extending the Loop: The Reshaping of Delmar

By Lana Stein

At a pre-Christmas meeting of the Commercial Committee, Carol Schmidt of Bistate Development Corp. announced that construction drawings are finally being prepared for the streetscape improvements to Delmar west of the Wabash Station to the city limits. Bistate plans to go to bid in March and begin construction in early summer. Delmar will not be completely shut down during the construction period. There will be one lane open in either direction.



The historic features of the Delmar Cleaners building were recently uncovered in the first stage of Joe Edwards' historic rehab.

These improvements — including sidewalk enlargement, landscaping, and lighting to match that in the University City Loop portion have been long awaited. As they take place, they will be accompanied by new office and commercial growth in the St. Louis section of the Loop.

Joe Edwards, creator of Blueberry Hill, the Tivoli, and the Pageant, is providing the spark for a degree of development on Delmar that we would not have imagined just a few years ago.

Beginning with the southeast corner of Skinker and Delmar, the 6172-78 building is taking on new life. It will be used for office and shops. The entire back wall has been replaced and there is a new foundation. There is also an elevator and new stairwell. The entire second floor office space will be occupied by Patrick Davis Communications. MacroSun International, an import business owned by Gil Williams, will occupy the retail space at 6172-74.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

Williams will have imports from India, Pakistan, and Tibet. The expected completion date for this building is May 1.

The building formerly occupied by Olivet Baptist Church will not be torn down. As of now, a restaurant is planned for the street level and there would be recital space upstairs.

At 6154 Delmar, where the existing structure collapsed during renovation, Edwards foresees a new 2-story building. He has begun fundraising for the Loop Theatre, which would have 3 stages. There would also be 4 small retail shops in the front of the theatre and the box office. These facades would all be different. Throughout these plans, every effort is being made to increase foot traffic. This development is further in the future than some of the others.

Although financial planning is still in process, there are tentative plans for the next buildings along the south side of Delmar. The site formerly home to Delmar Cleaners, 6142-46, would provide two storefronts for an ethnic restaurant.

There could be a retail shop, perhaps for clothing. Above would be 3 small office spaces, of 800-1000 square feet.

Next door at 6138-40, there would two small offices upstairs and first level retail, perhaps including a small restaurant.

Next is an apartment building and then the space where the new Regional Arts Commission building is rising. Occupancy should be possible in September.

On the north side of Delmar, the 6191 building had been home to Colonial Carpet for many years. It has considerable depth and Edwards plans an 8 lane retro bowling alley for the site. He foresees the growth of neighborhood leagues and will administer this business himself.

Edwards has also purchased the Wabash Station. He is interested in having a restaurant here. The wait area would look out on the MetroLink trains as they entered and left the Delmar station.

The Loop no longer ends by Eastgate. It is part and parcel of two jurisdictions and this will become more evident in the coming year.

By the way, Pollstar, the bible of the concert industry, ranks the Pageant number 6 in terms of tickets sold, ahead of Chicago's House of Blues, which is in a far larger market. Rock on, Joe. Rock on.

## Alderman Clay Says Adieu

by Lana Stein

After 12 years of representing the 26th ward in the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, Irving Clay Sr. is retiring from his second career in public service. Clay had earlier served as a parks and recreation official in St. Louis and in Virginia and had been an assistant to Mayor Schoemehl. Clay, much to everyone's surprise is 78 years old.

The 26th and 28th wards have shared the greater Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood for several decades. Clay has worked very closely with former Ald. Dan McGuiire and Ald. Lyda Krewson on the plans to redevelop Delmar. Clay was a co-sponsor of the Delmar Redevelopment Plan and worked very hard for its passage. He has also played a key role in the street modifications. His section of Delmar already has a planted median. Without his active assistance, the many changes to the Delmar streetscape would not have been possible. Ald. Clay also worked very hard to see the People's Clinic in its new home in 5700 Delmar. He has been working with the City Planning Division to market the 5700, 5800, and 5900 blocks of Delmar.

However, if there were one accomplishment that he would want to be remembered by, it would be the new housing he has brought to the West End neighborhood. If you drive north on Hamilton or on Belt, you will see modern 3-bedroom homes with garages gracing some of the streets. These homes have been selling for over \$150,000 and



have brought many new families to our area. The senior citizen facility named for his brother, former Congressman William L. Clay, is also a source of considerable pride. Some apartment buildings are being rehabbed as well. Clay has also worked on a plan to place townhomes on empty patches of Delmar east of Union. Builder and neighbor Gary Bierman is slated to develop those. Martin Jaffe, who has also built most of the Kingsbury Square homes, is the builder of some of the homes north of Delmar. Clay has also succeeded in attracting other developers to the area, including the Bank of America Community Development Corporation, which is the developer of homes on Enright just east of Hamilton.

On a personal note, I always enjoyed working with Ald. Clay and hope to continue seeing him around the neighborhood.

## NEWS OF NEIGHBORS

Bill Schiller and his Colonial Carpet Store were located in the neighborhood for over 35 years. In the 60's, Colonial Carpet could be found at what is now the "Four Corners", in the building now occupied by Bill Kohn and other artists. A classic small business success story, Colonial Carpet moved to Delmar in the 80's and became a mainstay of the local business community, as well as the serving in many leadership roles



Bill Schiller

with the business association, St. Roch's, Parkview Neighborhood and much more. Together with his son Steve, Bill and Colonial Carpet have now outgrown their Delmar store and have recently moved to a new and larger location in Overland, where they will celebrate the firm's 50th anniversary as well as the opening of their expanded quarters. While we will

miss the convenience and quality of this fine store, 2626 Woodson Road is only a few minutes north of the Delmar location. Literally generations of neighbors and Wash U students will miss the convenience and quality of their fine store.

Proud parents Gloria and Raynard Davison, 57XX block of DeGiverville, enjoyed a long visit from their daughter, Kila, over the Christmas holidays. Kila Davison, who graduated from Lutheran North in May, 2002, is a student at Mizzou, majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology. The Davisons, whom many know through their company, Gateway Roofing, are longtime neighbors in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood.

On a sadder note, Mrs. Leslie Steveson, also of the 57XX block of DeGiverville, passed away in mid November. She will be missed by her friends and neighbors. We extend condolences to her family.

And we also have in our hearts Parkview neighbor Ann Smith-Carr and her family after the tragic loss of her sister in Texas over Thanksgiving. Friends and neighbors throughout Skinker-DeBaliviere, many of whom have served with Ann on the SDCC Council or Gateway to Greening Board, extend their sympathy to the Smith and Carr families.



All photos by Andy Cross

**Marjie Brammeier, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, with her wonderful stuffed animals.**



**Jim McKelvey and the Third Degree Glass Factory, located on Delmar near Kingshighway.**

**Blacksmith artisan Shawnta Ray set up shop, complete with forge and anvil, and explained and demonstrated her craft.**



## 2002 Wintermarkt

In only its second year, the 2002 Wintermarkt was a big success with over 30 vendors, a large happy crowd, and very cooperative weather. Crafts this year included a wide array of offerings, from hand-painted glassware, jewelry, and ceramics to photography and blown glass. Craftpersons came from nearby towns and our own neighborhood. Beautiful accapella singing was provided by the St. Roch 9

o'clock choir. Singing with choreography from the Washington University "Pikers" captivated the crowd. There were many fine gifts to buy and treats to eat and drink. Thanks to all who participated, attended, and all the volunteers who helped make this event come together. Also thanks to the West End Arts Council for organizing the 2002 Wintermarkt.



**The Wash U "Pikers" were a big hit.**

## Friends Campaign

By Laure Porterfield

To date, the 2002 Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere fundraising campaign has raised \$5,724, well within site of the 2002 goal of \$6,000. We thank our campaign chairman, Linda Cross, for her leadership, and we salute each of you for your willingness to support the SDCC.

While every effort has been made to record and acknowledge each contribution, things do go astray. We ask all of you to accept our sincere thanks for your support of the work of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, and remind you that the office is here to serve you, the residents of this wonderful neighborhood.

Please feel free to drop by – for a cup of coffee, to find out the answer to a troublesome question, or to learn who might help you solve a particularly vexing problem.

And remember, much of the work that we do here is accomplished by volunteers, busy people who somehow find time to deliver flyers, attend planning meetings, and help run special events. They are dynamic, enthusiastic folks – and you might consider becoming one of them.

Not sure how to start? Call 862-5122, or come to the next regular board meeting, always the second Monday of the month.

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# Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Day

All photos by King Schoenfeld



The New Cote Brillante Church Choir and St. Roch School, led by Regina Morris, also performed, and Mary Edwards from Grace Church played the flute. Shown here, the Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School students also participated in the 2003 program.

This year, the SDCC MLK Day Program, held on January 26, 2003, was entitled "The Vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., As Lived by Greg Freeman". Held at New Cote Brillante Church of God, the program's speakers were welcomed by New Cote Brillante's Rev. Miki Merrit and Grace United Methodist Church's Pastor, Rev. Mary Harvey. Speakers included Lorraine Kee, Post-Dispatch columnist and reporter and long-time friend of Greg's; Emmanuel Kintu, from the Bridges Across Racial Polarization program co-founded by Greg; and Dan Schesch (shown here), who



Also featured was Liz Johnson, from the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, and daughter of Jack Wright, President of SDCC for many years in the 60's and 70's, and who began this outstanding tradition in the neighborhood.



founded the Bridges program with Greg. They also served on the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council together, as did speaker Lana Stein, TIMES co-editor and Professor of Political Science at UMSL.

## St. Louis Marathon

By Jennifer Olmstead

Make April 6th Spirit Day! Cheer on the Runners of the 2003 Spirit of St. Louis Marathon. There is no better way to show your neighborhood spirit than by joining family and friends that Sunday morning to encourage Marathon runners as they make their way through our city's streets. The marathon course, totaling 26.2 miles, runs along the perimeter of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. The prime viewing spot will be at the corner of Des Peres and Delmar, where spectators will be treated to coffee and snacks while they cheer on the runners. Runners will run past the intersection of Des Peres and Delmar between 9:15 am and 11:30 am. Bring your voice to cheer, your hands to clap, and any other noise-maker you think would provide encouragement – even cowbells!



As many a marathoner will attest, spectators play an important role in keeping runners' spirits high over the course of the race. "I've run a lot of marathons and you always reach a point where the neighborhoods and spectators are the only reason to keep going," said resident Jennifer Olmstead, who is leading the charge to drum up spectator support.

Fitness events include the Mayor's 5K Run/Walk – with Mayor Francis Slay participating – and the Children's Fun Runs featuring a Diaper Dash, 50- and 100-yard dashes, and a 1/2-mile run. This year, St. Louis will host the 2003 USA Women's Marathon Championship, which will take place on Saturday prior to the Spirit of St. Louis Marathon. The Championship runners will start on the track at Washington University's Francis Field, site of the 1904 Olympic Marathon and complete the remainder of the race in Forest Park.

The Spirit of St. Louis Marathon will start and end at Soldiers Memorial in downtown St. Louis, with the course running through several of St. Louis' most unique neighborhoods, including Skinker DeBaliviere. In addition to the traditional Marathon and Marathon Relay, organizers have introduced a Half Marathon.

To register or find out more about the St. Louis Marathon, check out the website at <http://www.stlouismarathon.com> or call 314-727-0800 to obtain an entry form.

If you are planning on running the marathon (anyone can do it!), please let Jennifer Olmstead know so we will be sure to watch for you and to cheer you on.

Last year, more than 3,500 runners participated in all the events associated with the Spirit of St. Louis Marathon & Family Fitness Weekend. Organizers hope to boost that number to more than 6,000 in 2003. The Spirit of St. Louis & Family Fitness Weekend kicks off Friday, April 4 with a Health and fitness expo at America's Center. On Saturday, April 5, organizers host Family Day in Forest Park.

## Operation Brightside Blitz set for April 5th

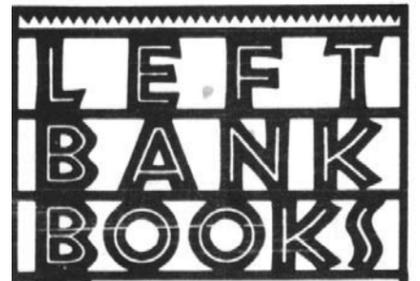
The citywide clean-up and beautification effort known as Operation Brightside will be held Saturday, April 5th, for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Block Captains and other volunteers interested in assisting with this event are invited to a neighborhood meeting on Saturday, March 1st, 10:00 a.m. at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury.

Plans will be made and informational materials distributed. Problem areas will be identified and, with your input, strategies developed as to how we as a community might deal with them. Chairman Andy Cross pledges fine weather and lots of help for all, so let's make sure his promise can be kept.

After last year's rainout, we are determined to have plans in place to get the work done, no matter what the weather.

Remember, this important clean-up effort can't be done without your individual participation. Think about it, and schedule yourself to be one of our dedicated neighborhood volunteers.

Flowers for planting in public areas will be available in early May. Their distribution will be coordinated with the annual Neighborhood plant exchange in Four Corners Park. Watch for details.



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Sculptor Susanna Biondo and her installation, "Garden Alive".

## Merry Makers Senior Social Center

New Cote Brillante Church of God

Recently, New Cote Brillante Church of God launched an ambitious new program targeted to senior citizens. The dedication of a new Senior Citizen Center, which was attended by Alderman Lyda Krewson and other church and community leaders on Tuesday, December 3rd, launched the Merry Makers group as a special program at New Cote Brillante. The Merry Makers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6199 Washington Avenue from 8:30 a.m. til 2:00 p.m. On days when there is snow, ice or severe cold the program is cancelled. Thus far, however, program offerings have included planned group projects, special events, special guests, field trips, personal care classes, computer classes, games, a sewing circle, music, tapes and films, the sharing of ideas and, especially, conversation. Lunch is also provided as part of the program.

Coordinated by Mattie L. Irons, the program seeks to provide organized activities that stimulate, inspire, motivate and encourage older adults. It is also the program's intent to promote independence among its members. They share an array of activities designed to enhance their talents and skills as well as to boost their self-esteem, thus enhancing individual member's sense of dignity and self-respect.

Facilities at New Cote Briliante are safe and easily accessible for seniors, including handrails on stairs and an elevator. The area where the Merry Makers meet is clean, and the environment is bright and creative.

All seniors are welcome to participate in the Merry Makers, regardless of church affiliation. The program is offered free of charge. For more details contact Mattie Irons at 727-3550.



Moving the house from 601 Westgate. Workmen shown here are performing one of hundreds of adjustments to the wheels necessary to make the turns into and out of Forest Park Parkway. Photo by Tim Schoemehl.

## Sculpture "Garden Alive"

By Andy Cross



Photo by Andy Cross.

The talents of neighbor David Melson and Marc Chechik contributed to the magic of the evening, as the sounds of upright base and accoustic guitar drifted through the garden.

Quietly located in the center of the McPherson Community Garden is the colorful butterfly garden, surrounded by towering sunflowers at summer's peak. Its newest addition is a 7 foot tall multi-tiered planter created by sculptor Susannah Biondo. A result of a call for entries for sculptors from neighbor Michelle Pike and the West End Arts Council, Biondo's project was made possible with the support of several groups, including Feinberg Real Estate Company, Kingsbury Animal Hospital, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Washington University, and the WU School of Art.

October 19, 2002, was a beautiful evening for the installation ceremony. Neighbors, Washington U students, faculty and guests gathered at the McPherson Community Garden to watch the final preparations of the sculpture. The evening was illuminated with torches, candles perched on garden rakes,

and artistic lanterns by neighbor Ute Levi. As the sun began to set, flames from the kiln built throughout the planter began to whisk through the clay and concrete structure, firing it in place.

Some ceramic pieces, which were built a few weeks earlier at a workshop by Biondo and the West End Arts Council, had been placed in the planter, and were fired along with the sculpture. Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors who attended the workshop received their ceramic pieces a few days later when the sculpture cooled.

In the spring, neighbors will replant the center section of the butterfly garden and plant flowers in the new planter.

Flower bulbs provided by Operation Brightside have already been planted in and around the planter. Come by in the spring and see the work of Susannah Biondo and all of the McPherson Community Gardeners.

## West End Arts Council News

By Laure Porterfield

After a wonderfully successful Wintermarkt, members of the West End Arts Council have not been content to sit on their laurels. Instead, an ambitious grant has been submitted to the Regional Arts Commission to fund three separate projects - a concert series for Four Corners Park titled "Neighborhood Notes", a public art installation called "Piazza Pizzazz", which involves creation and installation of a mosaic on and surrounding the stage at Four Corners Park, and, for the third year, another Wintermarkt.

Neighborhood Notes will seek out performers from the neighborhood, amateur and professional, who are interested in performing in our outdoor venue, Four Corners Park. A committee will be established to set the categories, and select the performers, for the series, which is currently envisioned to be a six-concert production. Anyone interested in working on either the selection committee or in applying to perform at the concerts is asked

to call 862-5122. Details will be released pending notification of funding.

Piazza Pizzazz is a public arts project to be led by neighborhood resident Ute Levi. Adults and children will have an opportunity to participate in the enhancement of our performance stage in Four Corners Park. Details, again, will be released once funding levels are set.

Finally, Wintermarkt will return for the third year. Neighborhood artisans and craftspeople will join others from the metropolitan area in this outdoor recreation of the traditional European Kristkindlmarkt. This event has become a successful fundraiser for the Arts Council.

Committee members include Bill Christman, Andy Cross, Shelley Goebel-Parker, Lucien Krakowski, Bill Kohn, Ute Levi, Michelle Pike, Laure Porterfield and Katrina Stierholz. There is always room for more volunteers. Questions? Call 862-5122.

Bd. of Directors Mtg. Oct. 14, 2002 Minutes  
Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Dan Schesch. Council members and guests were introduced. President Schesch gave an explanation of the council's purpose and function in the community. The function of the various committees was explained. The council's accomplishments for the past year were given. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Treasurer Peggy Droege was out of town; therefore action of the treasurer's report was deferred until next month. Aldermanic Report. Alderman Krewson embellished on President Schesch's information about the community, including the Delmar Redevelopment Project. An update was given on the Delmar streetscape. A question was asked about Home Rule. She advised all to read the many issues, which will be on the November ballot regarding Home Rule. Other question were answered. Security Report. Officer Heather Sabin reported that neighborhood crime is up by 10%. Garage burglaries and bicycle theft accounted for much of the increase. She advised residents to report suspicious seen in streets and alleys. She also reported that all alleys are not being maintained. Violation warning notices will be given out, and summons will be issued to property owners who are not maintaining alleys in back of the property. Residents were advised to report a car break in, even in cases where in no physical evidence. A Police Incident Reporting Systems Officer will make a follow up call to you.

Committee/Neighborhood Reports  
Executive Director Porterfield directed members to the report on Bill Christman's proposed café in his studio at 6014 Kingsbury, which was included in the information packet. He has started a door to door petition in the required area. He is requesting a letter from the council endorsing the concept of a neighborhood café. A motion was made by John Thomas and seconded by Georgi Fox to table discussion on the matter until a later time. The motion passed.

SDCC Board of Directors, October 14, 2002  
Delmar Commercial Committee. Executive Director Porterfield gave a brief report and passed out a 2002 report the community, which was submitted by committee chairman JoAnn Vatcha.

Beautification Committee. Chairman Andy Cross announced the installation/Firing Ceremony which will take place Sunday October 19, 2002 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the McPherson Community Garden. A multi-tiered ceramic sculpture will be fired on site. The event is sponsored by the West End Arts Council.

Historic District Review Committee. Paul Hohmann gave an explanation of the committee's function. Handouts were passed out explaining the requirements of owning a building in a historic district. Executive Director Porterfield explained the process required when doing home improvement projects.

Social Services Committee. Chairman Shirley Polk announced the Annual Neighborhood Food Drive scheduled for November 9, 2002 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Pick-up trucks and runners are needed.

Neighborhood Planning Committee. Executive Director Porterfield referred to the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood Wide Planning update included in the information packet. The results of the brainstorming session, which took place in May of this year, were detailed in the report. A chairman in need for the bake sale.

West End Arts Council. Andy Cross reported that the Wintermarkt will take place Saturday December 7, 2002 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Four Corners. Donations of baked goods are needed for the bake sale. Steve Givens answered question regarding potential retail outlets in the building under construction by Washington University at Skinker and Forest Park Parkway.

Transportation. Susan Littlefield reported that construction for the new MetroLink will begin next summer. Contracts will go out in the spring. She advised residents to be thinking about the implications construction will have on neighborhood traffic. Traffic pattern issues should be brought to the attention on the Transportation Committee. Alderman Krewson reported that Bi-State will hold a

town hall meeting per her request. The date has not been set.

President Dan Schesch reported on issues addressed by him and the committee regarding the DesPeres underpass. He reported on a meeting he and Paul Hohmann had with Bi-State and Congressman Clay.

SDCC Board of Directors, October 14, 2002  
Executive Director's Report. Executive Director Porterfield referred to her report in the information packet. The editor of the Times of Skinker DeBaliviere needs help. Forms for volunteers were available. Commercial District to extend special taxing district.

The Shell service station on Delmar and Skinker has applied for a liquor license. Required signatures within a 300-ft. circle have been gathered to force a public hearing to stop application.

Housing Corporation. Housing Corporation Project Administration Gary Boehnke explained the function of the Housing Corporation. He answered question regarding the report included in the information packet.

Executive Committee. Update was given by President Schesch.

Other Business. There was no other business, therefore the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Submitted By, Gwendolyn LaZard

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

November 11, 2002 (Corrected) Minutes  
Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Dan Schesch at 7:05 PM. Board members and guests were introduced. Minutes from the October 14, 2002 Board meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously. Treasurer Peggy Droege presented the Treasurer's reports for October and November. Treasurer's reports approved as submitted. A tentative budget for 2003 was presented for Board members to review and discuss at the December 9 meeting.

Security Report. Daniel Isom, the new police Captain for the 7th District was introduced. Captain Isom announced that Sam Hill will be the new Public Information Officer for the District. Captain Isom reported a recent increase in car thefts in the neighborhood.

Committee/Neighborhood Reports  
Washington Heights Update. John Thomas reported that a brainstorming group has met twice to discuss efforts to reorganize a neighborhood association for the Washington Heights portion of the neighborhood. Discussions have included ways to apportion representation to the Community Council by block. John reported that another meeting is scheduled for November 13.

Beautification Committee. Chairman Andy Cross reported that the sculpture firing and installation in the McPherson Community Garden was a great success and recognized Michele Pike for her leadership of that event. A discussion ensued about trash problems in the alleys. The discussion focused on bulk items that are put in the alley at inappropriate times or are not picked up as scheduled. Alderman Krewson indicated that she would contact the refuse department about the problem.

SDCC Board of Directors Nov. 11, 2002  
Bylaws Committee. Joe Keavany reported that he has been reviewing the bylaws, and understands that the Board wants to focus on questions of representation and compliance with 501(c)(3) requirements. Joe reported that he believes the current bylaws do a good job of defining how representation is to be apportioned. He reported that he has not yet reviewed 501(c)(3). Dan Schesch noted that the review of bylaws should also include the process for nominations and elections.

West end Arts Council. Andy Cross reported that fliers are going out for the December 7 Wintermarkt event.

Transportation Committee. Dan Schesch reported that 90% design drawings of the MetroLink extension along Forest Park had been presented by Bi-State at the NAC meeting. Copies of the drawings had been loaned to SDCC for tonight's meeting. Dan presented the drawings and discussed design elements at various points in the neighborhood. Dan also presented draft design recommendations received from the Transportation Committee. Action on the recommendation

was deferred until the December meeting. Executive Director's Report. Laure Porterfield referred Board members to her written report included in the Board Packet. She noted that the Police and Firefighter's Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for December 19th.

Housing Corporation. Gary Boehnke referred to the minutes of Housing Corporation board meeting included in the information packet. Executive Committee--Appointment of Nominating Committee. Dan Schesch noted that a Nominating Committee was needed to accept nominations for officers. Dan noted that the function of the nominating committee is to accept all nominations for officer positions and present a slate of all interested candidates to the Board. A motion was made for Steve Givens to serve as the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson noted problems at the intersection of Pershing and DeBaliviere, including problems caused by the lack of an entrance to Talanya's restaurant from DeBaliviere. Lyda expressed a renewed interest in addressing these issues with Skinker DeBaliviere and DeBaliviere Place residents. Lyda also reported that the City is applying for a federal grant for enhancements along Delmar East of Union. Lyda also reported that she is still working with Bi-State to schedule a "town meeting" about construction issues related to MetroLink construction. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Bd. of Directors Mtg. Dec. 9, 2002 Minutes

Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order by President Dan Schesch at 7:06 PM. Board members and guest were introduced. Minutes from November 11 Board meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report. Peggy Droege presented the Treasurer's report for November, which was approved unanimously. Approval of the 2003 budget was deferred to the January meeting. Laure Porterfield reported that the Friends campaign had raised \$2800 of its \$6000 goal. Fundraising efforts are ongoing, and fliers had not yet been distributed door to door.

Security Report. Captain Larry Isom introduced Sam Hill, the new public affairs officer for the 7th District. Officer Hill reported that auto thefts and burglaries continue to be a concern in the neighborhood, though these crimes are down in the neighborhood compared to last year. He encourages residents to report all such crimes so that police visibility and patrols can be increased as needed.

Aldermanic Report. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson presented the Aldermanic report. Lyda reported that she had met with the owner of Talanya's to discuss concerns raised by neighbors about traffic safety and littering around the building. The owner agreed to install a new curb cut from DeBaliviere, which should increase pedestrian safety. Lyda also reported that the Archway building at Pershing and DeBaliviere has outstanding exterior building code violation and would be coming up in housing court.

Lyda reported that construction on the Delmar street enhancements should run from April to September. 2 lanes of traffic will remain open at all times, and parking will be available on one side of the street during construction.

Nominating Committee Report. Steve Givens reported that a slate of candidates has been fielded for officer positions. The candidates who were nominated and agreed to serve if elected are:

President...Dan Schesch, Joe Keavany  
Vice-President...John Thomas  
Secretary...Tim Schoemehl  
Treasurer...Peggy Droege

SDCC Board of Directors, Dec. 9, 2002

Motion was made to accept the slate of candidates presented. Passed unanimously. Elections will be held at the January 2003 board meeting.

Beautification Committee. Andy Cross reported that the Beautification Committee is applying for a grant from Gateway Greening to help defray costs for the community gardens. Andy distributed copies of a newspaper article about the sculpture installation in the McPherson Community.

West End Arts Council. Andy Cross and Katrina Stierholz reported that there was great neighborhood participation in the Wintermarkt, including many neighborhood residents who were vendors. The weather was good, and attendance was high. Katrina reported that the event was a financial success. The proceeds from the event provide the neighborhood match for a grant the Arts Council is applying for from the Regional Arts Commission. Laure Porterfield reported that the West End Arts Council purchased additional canopies for use at Wintermarkt that will also be available for other neighborhood events.

Washington Heights. John Thomas reported that another Washington Heights organizing meeting had been held and that an additional meeting was scheduled for December 18th. Transportation Committee. Dan Schesch provided an overview of discussions the transportation committee had about the construction drawings for MetroLink that Bi-State presented. Dan also presented the Transportation Committee's recommendations regarding requests for design changes. Following a discussion, the Council passed the following resolutions relating to the design of the Cross-County MetroLink extension in the neighborhood:

All above ground construction elements and elevators should complement the architecture and character of the historic district.

Similar barriers and fencing should be used throughout the neighborhood along the south side of the Forest Park Parkway to create architectural flow and consistency. The fiberglass "wrought iron" on the "Texas barrier" would be more consistent with the neighborhood's architecture and historic character.

A bus drop-off lane should be incorporated into the Skinker Station plan at the Southwest corner of Skinker and Forest Park Parkway.

Bi-State should provide an aesthetically pleasing screening barrier between the Pershing alley and the Forest Park Parkway. The screening barrier should run from DeBaliviere to Skinker, and the design should be agreed to by SDCC and BSDA. Bi-State should conduct a feasibility evaluation of an overpass that would cross both the Forest Park Parkway and the Metrolink tracks. Such an overpass would increase safety for pedestrian access to Forest Park. Screening to provide privacy for Pershing residents and a design compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood should be part of any design.

SDCC Board of Directors, December 9, 2002  
Executive Director's Report. Laure Porterfield referred board members to her written report. She noted the board meeting schedule for 2003. Laure also noted that the police and firefighters appreciation lunch is December 19th.

Executive Committee Report. Laure Porterfield reported that for the past two years, SDCC has been a community organization representative to the MSD Rate Commission. Laure has been the organization's designated representative. The term to which SDCC was appointed is coming to a close, and SDCC must decide whether to apply for a new six year term. Discussion ensued about the merits of SDCC having such a role, whether neighborhood residents would be interested in serving on the Commission, and the burden on staff time of having the Executive Director fill this role. A motion was made to have SDCC reapply for the position, provided that someone other than the Executive Director could be found to serve as our representative.

Other Business. Katrina Stierholz noted that the Parks Department used to provide electricity to Four Corners Park that could be used for events such as Wintermarkt. This service has been disconnected. The Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing a letter to the Parks Department requesting the electricity be reconnected.

Dan Schesch reported that with the large number of events in the neighborhood it is sometimes a challenge to find enough volunteers. He requested that board members consider what expectations there should be for board members to serve as volunteers, and help recruit volunteers for neighborhood events, and discuss this next month.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM.

## Changing of the Guard

At its meeting on January 13, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council selected new officers. Joe Keaveney defeated the incumbent, Dan Schesch, by a vote of 8-7. Schesch had served 3 terms. The new vice president is John Thomas, returning to that office after a year's hiatus. Peggy Droege and Tim Schoemehl will continue as treasurer and secretary respectively. Past vice president Lara Doyle leaves the executive committee after serving in that role and as secretary for a number of years.

## CONTRACTOR REFERRAL LIST

For many years now, the SDCC office has attempted to maintain a contractor referral list for those seeking to find reputable contractors for projects on their homes or investment property in the neighborhood. Without offering any endorsement, the SDCC Contractor's list has been compiled when YOU think enough of a craftsman's work to pass that information on to the council - and thus your neighbors.

We currently seek more referrals.

Your name will not be released, and the Council does not certify any contractor. We seek help in finding workers in the following categories: roofers, gutters and downspouts, concrete work and other masonry projects, tuckpointing, electrical, painting, plastering, plumbing (indoor and outdoor), windows, general handyman, lawn work, and any other category that you can create. Please use the following form to send us your information:

Contractor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include address, phone number, cell phone where available)

Kind of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Return this information to SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112. Questions? Call 862-5122.

# IN YOUR EAR

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

## My Hawaiian Vacation

Things began to go downhill shortly after I asked the first wife where she'd like to go for vacation. She'd worked hard recently — shoveling all that snow must have caused her back to be a bit sore — and I figured she needed a break. I try to take care of her. After all, I bought her a new snow-shovel for Christmas, one with a deep and curved bowl and a red handle, but she still was straining to throw all the snow off our sidewalk. "Give the girl a vacation," I thought. Am I like an enlightened husband, or what?

But no sooner were the words out of my mouth when I regretted asking them.

You see, the first wife and I have many things in common. We like fine food, good wine, and adore our standard poodles, B.J. and Casper. We like the same sports and support the same political candidates. We both groove on Harry Potter and cheer ourselves hoarse at Stones' concerts. But we have quite different criteria for what makes a fun vacation. Oh, there are some things that we both think are essential to a good vacation, like being out of town

and not being in town. Other than that, are preferences are quite different.

Me? I like cities, asphalt, museums, art galleries, fine restaurants, central parks, and people who speak with an accent because they didn't grow up here. My ultimate vacation spot is London. We camp out at the half-price booth to get our tickets for that evening's play, we do a museum or two during the day, or maybe a museum and an art gallery. Then after our play at night, we walk to Chinatown for dinner and take the subway home. It doesn't get any better than this in my book.

The first wife? Well, let me say that if the temperature is below 80 and if she doesn't have sand between her toes, she's in mourning. Even in the afternoon she's in mourning. Yes, the first wife is a beach junkie. Her idea of high heaven is lying on the beach, the sun pounding on your back, seagulls menacing your food from overhead, and every kind of food you eat has pineapple in it. You may think I'm exaggerating, but I've truly had both chili pineapple and salmon pineapple. Actually, neither tasted as bad as they sound.

I first figured this our years ago when we went to Jamaica. We were, basically, staying in some Soviet-style stalag, a vacation compound. It was fancy and you could eat and drink all you wanted, but that was it. The

only entertainment was watching others eat and drink, mostly eat and drink too much. We were picked up at the airport — really a dirt-road on to which planes landed, dogs running alongside barking — by a bus. "Anyone going to Camp Drinkeroonie?" the camp counselor yelled, a can of beer in each hand. A wild yahoo, this is before the search-engine days, went up from the crowd and before I could secure my laptop, everyone else also had a beer in each of their two hands. After that, the bus ride to Camp Drinkeroonie was uneventful, other than the three times we had to stop because someone was sick from drinking too much.

Camp Drinkeroonie went downhill from there. The highlight was that through the miracles of satellite television, I could watch the second round N.C.A.A. basketball tournament on the tube in our condo. The food wasn't bad, but after five days of pineapple plus, I couldn't wait for some solid nutrition, a good old-fashioned White Castle. The first wife, I should note, loved it. It wasn't the drinking that appealed to her, it was that it was hot and there was sand everywhere.

She'd find the sunniest spot around to read in, setting her alarm to roll over every 20 minutes. She came back a bright shade of hot pink, on all sides.

Fast-forward, now, to this vacation. It's snowing outside. I'd repressed Camp Drinkeroonie and foolishly asked the First Wife where she wanted to go. In a nano-second she blurted it: Hawaii.

"Hawaii?" I asked, already kicking myself. When we were last there, a score of years or so ago, I likened it to a bowling alley with palm trees. And now we were returning.

Well, we did Hawaii, this time the Big Island. I'm pleased to note that while most things change, the Rams are up and they're down, Seinfeld is on the air and he's off, Hawaii remains the same. It consists of three

major elements: sand, sun, and pineapple. The combinations vary, but these three constitute over 90% of any day.

We stayed at a sort of fancy place; everyone wore shoes. The beach was rock, not sand, so you couldn't just recline and waste away, rolling over on schedule. You had to be taken to be beach, by van, and then you could recline and waste away, rolling over. The closest thing we got to culture was one night when we watched a CNN repeat of the biography of George W. Bush. Honest.

But hey, I'm an enlightened husband, and if this makes the First Wife happy, I'm there for her. I stood by her side even when she had her naval pierced and that tiny piece of butterfly jewelry inserted. It looked painful to me, but it's not my naval. My Hawaiian souvenir is a can of Macadamia nuts and her's is jewelry in her naval; go figure. I'll never understand her, but she does one good job of shoveling the snow, cleaning, and cooking, so who am I to complain?

Anyway, we're home now, back in the cold. We've survived the sun, the sand still shows up intermittently in our clothes dryer (the first wife does a good job with the cleaning too), but I'll never eat pineapple again. And I've learned, too. Successful people learn from experience, I read somewhere, so I have three rules that I'm committing to memory, things I learned in our 50th state. And you, dear reader, luck out, 'cause you get them for free. Rule #1: Not everyone looks good in a bathing suit. That may sell it to you, but it's your responsibility to look in the mirror before you leave your room. Rule #2: Even the best pineapple doesn't make warm beer taste better. That's why God invented ice. And Rule #3: Next year I'll decide where we're going on vacation. Aloha!

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## Loan Program Announces Lower Rates

Effective immediately, the interest rate on home improvement loans available throughout the Sustainable Neighborhoods Home Improvement Loan program has been reduced to a 5% annual percentage rate. The new rate will apply to all future loans and applications currently in progress. The program offers home improvement loans up to \$25,000 with as much as ten years to repay.

The Sustainable Neighborhoods Home Improvement Loan program is a partnership between the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance, the Missouri Housing Development Commission, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and four St. Louis banks created to provide targeted below-market

interest rate home improvement loans in low to moderate income communities. The program is funded through June 2003.

Owner-occupied, one and two-family properties in all of St. Louis City qualify for this program, with a maximum household eligible income of \$79,200 regardless of family size. Applications are available by contacting UMB Bank at (314) 621-1000, Commerce Bank at (314) 746-8787, US Bank at (314) 418-2504, and First Bank at (314) 592-8000.

For additional information, contact Rick Bonasch, Director of Technical Assistance, Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance at (314) 333-7007.